

現代英語における直喩表現 —— (3)

—— (as)～as+Noun の統計的調査 ——

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はじめに

本稿は (as)～as+noun の直喩表現を前回と同じように corpus として米国版の Readers's Digest 31 冊の中から第 2 部で記載できなかったもののうち 38 例を選んで、現代英語ではどのような直喩表現がよく使われているか、また cliché となっている表現が歴史的に見ていつ頃から始まり現在ではどのような形に変わったかを調査するものである。

1. (as) fair as

America! America! God shed His grace on thee Till *Souls* wax fair as earth and air. And music-hearted sea!

p. 92 Jul. '93

年代を遡って見ると

- a) 1358 Chaucer L. G. W. 613 *Cleopatra*, Sche was fayr as ...the Rose in May.
- b) 1864 — Aylmer's F. 681 Fair as the Angel that said 'Hail'
- c) 1779 Wordsw. 'She dwelt' Wks. (1885) 115/1 *A violet ...Fair as a star*, when only one Is shining in the sky.
- d) 1781 Cowper Anti-Thelyphthora 71 *October...mild and fair as May*.

他には次のような例が見られる。...(as) fair as a lily, ...(as) fair as heave or freedom won ...(as) fair as marble, 同意の ...(as) beautiful as は多くの例が見

られるがその中で John G. Whittier の ...(as) beautiful as sky and earth, Percy B. Shelly の (as) beautiful as morning, Lord Byron の ...(as) beautiful as day, O. S. Wondersford の ...(as) beautiful as nature in spring など as 以下の転移語句に特徴があるものも見られる。

2. (as) healthy as

Healthy as a horse Medications? Penicillin for recent periodontal inflammation. Surgery? Tonsillectomy in 1965.

p. 200 Jun. '90

...(as) healthy as a young tree in the sun, ...(as) healthy as a kayaker, ...(as) healthy as a steer などが見られるが、同意の表現では (as) fit as a fiddle が有名な cliché 表現であろう。

3. (as) mad as

1. You'd better get inside quick! You're late — and *the drill sergeant* is mad as hell.

p. 145 Jun. '91

2. ...mad as a mule chewin' on bumblebees.

p. 169 Jan. '93

年代を遡って見ると

a) 1558 Shakes. *L. L. L.* iv. iii. 7 By the Lord *this Loue* is as mad as Ajax, it kills sheepe.

b) 1609 *Ev. Wom. in Humor* i. in Bullen Old Plays IV. 314 If *he* were as madde as a weaver.

c) 1823 J. Doddridge *Dialogue of Backwoodsman & Dandy* in Logan 42 *Every body* that was not ax'd was mad as a wet hen.

d) 1849 Thackeray *Pendennis* x. We were ...chaffing Derby Oaks until *he* was as mad as a hatter.

e) 1927 *Amer. Speech* 11, 360 *He was as mad as a hornet when he heard how the election went.*

f) 1971 *Wall St. Jrn.* 22 July W.1/4 *The chicken farmers of Quebec ...are as mad as, well, a wet hen.*

この他には Alice in Wonderland に *as mad as a March hare*. Julia O'Faolain の *as mad as a bush*, とか *as mad as a serpent* (*New York Times* /Hers, July 3 (1986) ...*(as) mad as a bobcat, ... (as) mad as a buck, ... (as) mad as a bull among bumblebees, ... (as) mad as all wrath, ... (as) mad as a vexed sea, ... (as) mad as a wet hen, ... (as) mad as hops* などが見られる。

4. (as) light as

1. She retrieved the hat — along with an abandoned kitten that was to become her most beloved pet. She named him Zephyr, she told me, because *he was as light as a gentle breeze.* p. 143 Nov. '91

2. His little brother Churns, with head down and arms pumping, spraying a fluffy wake. *My wife, light as a cat, barely ruffles the snow.*

p. 38 Jan. '93

a) 1775 *S. J. Pratt Liberal Opin.* cxvi. (1783) IV. 82 He ...swore ...that I should not leave him till *his purse was as light as eleven-pence.*

この他に次のような例が見られる。

...(as) light as a butterfly, ...(as) light as a fly, ...(as) light as a monkey, ...(as) light as a leaf, ...(as) light as a feather, ...(as) light as wind, ...(as) light as an angel, ...(as) light as a phantom, ...(as) light as dust, ...(as) light as sea-foam, ...(as) light as dandelion fluff, ...(as) light as mist in a breeze, ...(as) light as toast, ...(as) light as a wisp of air, ...(as) light as thistledown, ...(as) light as a child skips rope, ...(as) light as milkweed, ...(as) light as helium, ...(as) light as a paper toy, ...(as) light as a petal falling upon stone, ...(as) light as a seed, ...(as) light as cork, ...(as) light as breath

5 . (as) naked as

Now I could understand her concern, for *Napoleon of Grandstone*, the Senior Stud, was as naked as a skinned rabbit. p. 247 Dec. '92

年代を遡って見ると

- a) 1377 Langl. P. Pl. B. xii. 162 Take two stronge men, and in the mese caste hem, And *bothe* naked as a nedle.
- b) a1467 Gregory's Chron. (Camden) 211 *The Lorde Schalys* ...was slayne at Synt Mary Overeyes ..., and lay here dyspoyly nakyd as a worme.
- c) 1559 Mirr. Mag. (1562) Bb vij. We ...Were led in *Prysoners* naked as my nayle.
- d) 1654 E. Gayton Pleasant notes Don Quixot iii. iv. 88 As naked and bare as a shorne Sheep, as we say as in our English Proverb.
- e) 1860 O. W. Holmes Prof. at Breakfast table iii, 39 A friend ...had a watch given him ...with a loose silver case ...You know them, the cases dthat you hang on your thumb, while the ...real watch, lies in *your hand* as naked as peeled apple.
- f) 1963 J. T. Rowland North to Adventure xi. 160 Tell us what *you* were doing, standing naked as a jaybird.
- g) 1986 Helen Dudar Wall Street Journal, Nov. 26 ...(as) naked as a peach pit.

この他に ...(as) naked as an egg, ...(as) naked as a stone, ...(as) naked as a table cloth ...(as) naked as a weather report, ...naked as rain などが見られる。

6 . (as) natural as

1. After all, how difficult could it be to explain *something* that is as natural to Americans as breathing. p. 180 Apr. '91

2. Carey knows he has this gift only because others say he has it. To him,

acting is as natural as breathing.

p. 77 Oct. '89

この他には、年代は不明であるが次のようなものが見られる。

- a) Edith Wharton ...as natural ...as the falling of leaves.
- b) Romain Gary *A faith* ...as natural, as irrational as the elements.
- c) Stephen Mckenna ...as natural ...as the passion for air or food or drink.

7. (as) necessary as

Our relationship felt ...as necessary as breathing.

p. 198 Apr. '91

- a) John Ray's Proverbs ...necessary as a Gardner to his garden.
- b) Mary Morris ...necessary as an anesthesiologist to an operation.
- c) Patricia Henley *Men* are as necessary to her survival as water.

その他作者不詳であるが次のようなものが見られ、as 以下の転移語句は現代人の生活感を表わしていて興味深い。

...(as) necessary as water to a healthy lawn, ...(as) necessary as sunshine to a garden, ...(as) necessary applause to an actor, ...(as) necessary as a saw to a carpenter, ...(as) necessary as a paycheck to a worker, ...(as) necessary as workouts to an athlete, ...(as) necessary as practice to a musician, ...(as) necessary as Christmas to retailers, ...(as) necessary as snow to a ski weekend, ...(as) necessary as as eggs in an omelette, ...(as) necessary as gas to a car, ...(as) necessary as quartz for a digital watch, ...(as) necessary as bytes to a computer

8. (as) nervous as

Very little traffic goes by my house, but even so, the first time I took the machine on the road *I was as nervous as a squirrel's tail.*

p. 121 Jan. '89

年代を遡って見ると

- a) 1911 F. M. Crawford *Uncanny Tales, Man Overboard* (1917) 132 *She's been as nervous as a witch all day.*
- b) 1918 E. H. Porter *Oh, Money!* xxvii, *He's nervous as a witch.* He can't keep still a minute.
- c) Marge Piercy ...nervous as a butterfly.
- d) F. Scott Fitzgerald ...nervous as a will o'-the-wisp.
- e) American colloquialism ...nervous as a whore in church.

その他に as 以下の転移語句に動物名がくるのが多く見られる。

...(as) nervous as a cat on a hot tin roof, ...(as) nervous as a coyote in a pen,
...(as) nervous as a dog with a bone, ...(as) nervous as a hamster, ...(as)
nervous as a kitten with a duck for a foster mother

9. (as) plain as

Love for me is specific: I speak of your father, Robert, my husband of 23 years. To you *our marriage is as plain as vanilla ice cream*, but it is the core of my life.

p. 33 May '91

年代を遡って見ると

- a) 1542 Becon *David's Harp* Early Wks. (Parker Soc.) 276 *He is as plain as a pack-staff.*
- b) 1591 Greene *Disc. Coosnage* (1592) 4 *A new game ...that hath no policie not knauerie, but plaine as a pikestaffe.*
- c) 1691 Dryden *Amphitryon* iii. i, O Lord, what absurdities! as plain as any packstaff.
- d) 1867 Trollope *Chron. Barset* l. xlii. 367 *The evidence against him was as plain as a pike-staff.*

その他に次のような例がみられる。

...(as) plain as day, ...(as) plain as the nose on your face, ...(as) plain as black and white ...(as) plain as blank pages, ...(as) plain as a pike, ...(as) plain as a cheap clothes-rack, ...(as) plain as English mutton

10. (as) powerless as

And his stories taught lessons. *Seuss's heroes*, often as powerless as children, possessed moral integrity.

p. 61 Apr. '92

- a) Elizabeth Barrett Browning ...powerless as a stone...
- b) Simmon de Beauvoir ...powerless before a cataract....
- c) Percy Bysshe Shelley ...powerless as the wind...

その他に次のような例が見られる。

...(as) powerless as a child, ...(as) powerless as a babe, ...(as) powerless as broken arm、同意の例では ...(as) weak as a kitten, ...(as) weak as water, ... (as) weak as a stick などが見られる。

11. (as) proud as

He grew in stature in my mind. In the end. I think *he* stoodas proud as the the greatest American industrialists.

p. 118 May '92

年代を遡って見ると

- a) 1526 Pilgr. Perf. (W. de.W. 1531) 18 *Some be as proude as Nabugodonosor.*
- b) 1560 J. Daus tr. *Sleidane's Comm.* 119 *They are as bragged and as proude as pecockes.*
- c) 1711 Swift Jrnl. to *Stella* 20 Nov., *Lord Strafford is as proud as Hell.*
- d) 1782 F. Burney *Cecilia* ix. vi, *They say he's as proud as Lucifer.*
- e) 1839 Bailey *Festus* (1852) 55 *Men say — as proud as Lucifer — Pray*

who would not be proud with such a train?

その他に次のような例が見られるが、上例の ...(as) proud as a peacock が cliché と言えるであろう。

...(as) proud as a cock ..., ...(as) proud as a hen ..., ...(as) proud as an idol, ...
(as) proud as a stork, ...(as) proud as Satan himself

12. (as) quiet as

So I'd escape to *my uncle's childless apartment*, which was always as quiet as a church.

p. 63 Jun. '91

a) 1843 Niall in Noncof. III. 635 Rebecca's rights once obtained *we* will be as quiet as mice.

その他に次のような多数の例が見られるが、上例の as quiet as a church が cliché と言えるであろう。

...(as) quiet as a lamb, ...(as) quiet as a mouse, ...(as) quiet as a moth, ...(as) quiet as a wasp in one's nose, ...(as) quiet as an eel swimming in oil, ...(as) quiet as a nun, ...(as) quiet as a prayer, ...(as) quiet as a wooden-legged man on a tin roof, ...(as) quiet as death, ...(as) quiet as a sepulchre, ...(as) quiet as two tombs, ...(as) quiet as the hills, ...(as) quiet as dust, ...(as) quiet as a stone, ...(as) quiet as a street at night

13. (as) regular as

Now, at last *the engine* came alive, clicking merrily dipping and splashing in the cascading stream, regular as a metronome.

p. 50 Oct. '92

この例は Edward Hoagland と同じものである。

年代を遡って見ると

1824 Byron Juan xvi. cxiii. ... with *awful footsteps* regular as rhyme.

その他に次のような例が見られる、...(as) regular as a clock, ...(as) regular as a the chug-chug of a motor boat, ...(as) regular as a motor boat, ...(as) regular as a heartbeat, ...(as) regular as sun and tide

14. (as) reliable as

Some people are as reliable as sunrise.

p. 6 Apr. '89

- a) Harold Adams ...reliable as crystal balls, goat innards, and prayer
- b) Joseph Wambaugh ...about as reliable as a Pravda editorial
- c) Peter J. Bonacich, letter to the editor of *Discover*, April, 1986 ...reliable as reading tea leaves or the bumps on one's head.

15. (as) stupid and silent as a stone

In school *he* ...stupid and silent as a stone, knowing he would be different from everyone else forever.

p. 159 Dec. '90

年代を遡って見ると

(as) stupid as

1877 Holderness (gloss.). 'As stupid as a mule.'

Holy Bible /Job 18 What makes you think *we* are as stupid as cattle?

(as) stupid as の用例は多くは見られなかったが、同意の ...(as) absurd as, ...(as) ridicule as にはつぎのような例がみられる。...(as) absurd as a monkey in a dinner jacket ...(as) absurd as an excuse, ...(as) absurd as mathematics without number, ...(as) absurd as to put bread in a cold oven, ...(as) absurd as to put water in a basket, ...(as) absurd as trying to drink from a colander, ...(as) ridicule as monkeys reading books

(as) silent as

年代を遡って見ると

- a) 1580 Fulke Dang. Rock 164 *He is as silent as a Stone.*
- b) 1829 W. Scott Jrnl. 1 July (1964) 89 *The house ...became silent as the grave.*
- c) 1827 Pollok Course Time ix, He went abroad, With foot as silent as the starry dews.
- d) 1889 R. L. Stevenson Master of Ball. iii. 62 *We ...became silent as the grave.*
- e) 1936 W. S. Maugham Cosmopolitans 269, *I will be as silent as the grave, but honestly I don't understand. What does it all mean?*

その他に、...(as) silent as a burglar behind a curtain, ...(as) silent as a prisoner, ... (as) silent as a ghost, ...(as) silent as a cat on velvet, ...(as) silent as a white shark, ...(as) silent as your shadow, ...(as) silent as midnight thought, ...(as) silent as despair, ...(as) silent as, despairing love, ...(as) silent as the moon, ...(as) silent as rain and fleece, ...(as) silent as rays of the sun, ...(as) silent as a country churchyard, ...(as) silent as a lantern, ...(as) silent as a snowflake settled on the ground, ...(as) silent as a standing pool, ...(as) ... (as) silent as a stuffed sausage, ...(as) silent as flight, ...(as) silent as pillows, ...(as) ...(as) silent as pictures on the wall, ...(as) silent as the tomb など多数の as 以下の転移語句が見られる。

16. (as) simple as

1. Something as simple as a family walk through an unexplored area can be invigorating, say John De-Frain, associate professor of human development and the family at the University of Nebraska — Lincoln.

p. 13 Apr. '89

2. My father and I regarded each other across a gulf in those days — that

awkward, silent space males put between themselves about *matters as soul-simple as love and fear.*

p. 101 Mar. '90

年代を遡って見ると

a) 1937 D. L. Savers *Busman's Honeymoon* xii. 210 *He's knocked out... Simple as pie.* No cutting or stealing keys or hiding blunt instruments or telling lies.

b) 1948 I. B. Priestley *Linden Tree* i. 39 *It's as simple as pie.*

as/though 以下が節になっている例があるが、今は使われていない。

c) 1598 Shakes. *Merry W.* i. i. 228 *Slender. He's a Justice of Peace in his Countie, simple though I stand here.*

d) 1728 Swift *Mullinix* Timothy Wks. 1751 VII. 213 *And simple as I now stand here,* Expect in Time to be a ...

この他に次のような例がみられる。

...(as) simple as rain, ...(as) simple as sport, ...(as) simple as golden rule, ...(as) simple as chessboards, ...(as) simple as cradle songs, ...(as) simple as a bucket, ...(as) simple as a Hopper painting

17. (as) slow as

Even the insects pause from their usual murmuring. Too quiet, my heart hammers. Slow as an hour hand, I turn my head.

p. 177 Jun. '91

この他に次のような例がみられる。

...(as) slow as paste, ...(as) slow as a dream, ...(as) slow as a hand of school room clock, ...(as) slow as the oak's growth, ...(as) slow as a tortoise, ...(as) slow as dough. ...(as) slow as a weight, ...(as) slow as a hog on ice with his tail frozen

18. (as) swift and deadly as

He rose unsteadily; *infections* in the jungle were swift and deadly as a bullet.

p. 140 Feb. '91

年代を遡って見ると

a) *Holy Bible / Deuteronomy* 28 The LORD shall bring a nation against thee from far, from the end of the end of earth, swift as the eagle flieth;

...

b) *Holy Bible / Job* 24 He is swift as the waters; their portion is cursed in the earth; ...

c) 1386 *Chaucer Prol.* 190 Grehoundes he hadde, as swift as fowel in flight.

d) 1590 *Shakes. Mids. N. i. i.* 144 ...swift as a shadowe; short, as any dreame.

e) *William Shakespeare* ...swift as thought...

f) *William Shakespeare* ...swift in motion as a ball...

g) *Percy B. Shelly* ...swift as a cloud between sea and sky

この他に次のような例が見られる。...(as) swift as a greyhound, ...(as) swift as a mugger, ...(as) swift as a plunging knife, ...(as) swift as an arrow...(as) swift as as desire, ...(as) swift as fear, ...(as) swift as unbridled rage,

19. (as) sweet as

For George Herbert Allen, *the 49er's hard-fought 29-20* win that day was as sweet as a Super Bowl victory.

p. 122 Dec. '91

年代を遡って見ると

a) 1837 *Campbell Cora Linn. ii* It was as sweet an Autumn day

b) 1952 *M. Laski Village vi.* 109 *She* was as sweet as pie, said she was awfully sorry.

c) 1978 *F. Weldon Praxis xxiv.* 256 *She's* very stubborn. Sweet as pie just

so long as she's doing exactly what she wants.

d) George Garrett We bit into life and *life* was sweet as a ripe apple.

e) William Wordsworth ...sweet as love, or the remembrance of a generous deed.

その他に ...(as) sweet as a chaplain, ...(as) sweet as a fresh plum, ...(as) sweet as apple cedar, ...(as) sweet as cream ...(as) sweet as new-mown hay ...(as) sweet as a mountain lily ...(as) sweet as a reprieve, ...(as) sweet as the hope of Paradise, ...(as) sweet as sweet mountain dew, ...(as) sweet as a kiss, ...(as) sweet as a first love, ...(as) sweet as love songs, ...(as) sweet as melancholy などが見られる。このうち ...(as) sweet as pie は現在もよく使われていて cliché 表現になりつつあると考えられる。

20. (as) still as a stone

1. I went to the woods then my daddy died, to a thicket of blackberry brambles shut off from the rest of the world. When the preacher came to find me, I pressed my face deep into the thorns and as still as a stone.

p. 134 Jan. '91

2. *John* was still as a stone.

p. 224 Jun. '93

年代を遡って見ると

a) a1225 Leg. Kath. 1253 þt nan ne seide na wiht, ah seten stille ase stan.

b) 1390 Gower Conf. I. 102 He lay stille as eny ston.

c) a1400-50 Wars Alex 263 Quen. he þire sawis had sayd he in his sege lened, In stody still as a stane...

d) 1535 Coverdale Exod. xv. 16 Let feare and drede fall vpon them...that they maye be as styll as a stone.

e) 1604 Shakes. Oth. v. ii. 94 Hah, no more moouing? Still as the Graue.

f) 1816 J. Wilson City of Plague i.i. 79 There it hangs Still as a rainbow in

the pathless sky.

その他に次のようなものが見られる。

...(as) still as sleeping princesses, ...(as) still as a mummy in a case, ...(as) still as a child in its first loneliness, ...(as) still as a cocoon on a branch, ...(as) still as a folded bat, ...(as) still as a little hare in the hollow, ...(as) still as a lizard on a stone, ...(as) still as a picture, ...(as) still as a snapshot, ...(as) still as a pillar, ...(as) still as a post, ...(as) still as ice, ...(as) still as held breath, ...(as) still as death

...(as) still as a stone は 13 世紀前半から見られ、現代英語でも使われている cliché 表現であると考えられる。

21. (as) tight as a drum

Verdi says, "Relax, Mr. Potok. You're tight as a drum. ..."

p. 45 Jan. '89

年代を遡って見ると

a) 1747 Gentl. Mag. 170 The pitch being put in very hot will ...make *the ship as tight as a bottle.*

b) 1857 Hughes Tom Brown i. iv, Tom has eaten ...and imbibed coffee, till *his little skin is as tight as a drum.*

c) 1902 M. Barnes Grundy *Thames Camp* 202, I pulled and strained, but *it was as tight as wax.*

a) は特に船などについて water-tight; well caulked and pitched; not leaky の意味で使われている例、b) は物が drawn or stretched so as to be tense, not loose or slack の意味で使われている例、c) は物が neatly arranged or constructed; tidy, neat, snug, compact の意味で使われているが、現在は dialect となっている例。

その他に次のようなものが見られる。

...(as) tight as a knot, ...(as) tight as a quivering string, ...(as) tight as a sheet

on a hospital, ...(as) tight as tourniquets

22. (as) tough as

Our month, as tough and disciplined as basic training, is soon over.

p. 46 Jan. '89

この例は very hard to carry out の意味で使われているが年代を遡って見ると次のような例がある。

a) 1679 R. Boyle Guzman ii. Dram. Wks. 1739 II. 267 Let *his Skin* be tuff as Wall.

b) 1843 Mrs. Carlyle Lett. (1883) I. 219 *The 'cold fowl'* was ...as tough as leather.

c) 1870 M. Bridgman *R. Lynne* I. xiii. 213 *She's* as tough as old boots.

d) 1946 J. B Priestley *Bright Day* iv. 111 Joe Acworth's more the type. *He's* as tough as old leather.

a)、b) の例は very hard to cut の意味で、c)、d) の例は very strong; not easily moved by feelings such as pity の意味で使われている。b) ...as tough as leather, c) ...as tough as old boots の表現は今も使われている cliché 表現であろう。

その他に次のようなものが見られる。

...(as) tough as a jockey, ...(as) tough as a kibbutz woman, ...(as) tough as a monkey, ...(as) tough as seaweed, ...(as) tough as a fast food steak, ...(as) tough as a stale bagel ...(as) tough as boiled owls, ...(as) tough as a little green apple, ...(as) tough as a black oak, ...(as) tough as a bone, ...(as) tough as old boots, ...(as) tough as elephant's hide, ...(as) tough as tire treads, ...(as) tough as a thorn, ...(as) tough as knife metal, ...(as) tough as a resistant bacterium

23. (as) uncertain as

I learned in the space of seconds what I should have known from 50 years of living: *life* is ... uncertain as your next breath.

p. 135 Dec. '91

年代を遡って見ると

a) William Shakespeare ...uncertain as the glory of an April day.

b) 1850 McCosh Div. Govt. ii.ii. (1874) 163 There is *nothing* ...uncertain as bodily health and human destiny.

24. (as) unique as

When a metal component is hit by sound waves, it “rings” at a distinct frequency. *This pattern of resonance, as unique as a finger print,* changes if a flaw develops.

p. 126 Jan. '92

a) Elyse Sommer ...unique as the suits worn to a banker's convention.

25. (as) warm as

Margaret Kennedy Moser first whispered something into my ear while I was in ICU. She called me Angel, with *an Irish lilt* as warm as a cup of tea.

p. 142 Dec. '91

年代を遡って見ると

a) 1885 A. S. Stephens *Oldhomestead* i 16 *Every thing* nice and warm as toast.

b) 1883 Stevenson *Silverado Sq.* 21 It keeps *this end of the valley* as warm as a toast.

その他に次のようなものが見られる。

...(as) warm as a new born baby, ...(as) warm as summer, ...(as) warm as veins, ...(as) warm as a hug

以下の表現は辞典類には用例があまり見られず、*cliche* となっている固定化した表現を持たないものと考えられるものを列挙する。

26. (as) identical as

When *days* become as identical as beads on a string, they blend together, and even months become a single day.

p. 15 Jan. '92

27. (as) involuntary as

But I am talking about *the king of kiss* that is as involuntary as breathing — a parent's kiss for a child.

p. 9 Apr. '93

28. (as) organized as

His ideas are as precisely organized as a Bach cantata.

p. 154 Mar. '93

29. (as) interesting as

No matter who you're traveling with, the lesson applies. *A typical planeload* of passengers is as interesting as a miniature neighborhood, so pay attention to the human drama around you.

p. 92 Dec. '90

30. (as) logical as

But along the way he acquired *a world view* as logical as Newton's.

p. 134 Jan. '90

31. (as) lost as

They were as lost as a whinny in a windstorm.

p. 167 Jul. '91

32. (as) luminous as

I stare at the title of the book; Oh, the Places You'll Go! *A thought as luminous as the whirling colors on the cover suddenly fills my mind.*

p. 117 Jan. '92

33. (as) ordinary as

Some might call it fate, and I guess it was. But it shows you, big opportunities can come out of ordinary encounters — even *something as ordinary as a taxi ride.*

p. 80 Nov. '91

34. (as) resonant as

The wolf howls were as resonant as fire-truck sirens; the chorus reminded me of a 12-alarm blaze — and raised 12-alarm goose bumps.

p. 128 Mar. '89

35. (as) somber as

. ...and his father ...was a painter at heart; *his pictures*, which had been exhibited in Moscow galleries, lined the apartment walls — old churches, fishermen's boats, brooding seascapes, all as somber as life in Russia.

p. 184 Jan. '92

36. (as) shaky as

The Small Business Investment Company Program, once an SBA success

Story, now looks as shaky as the savings-and-loan industry.

p. 130 Oct. '91

37. (as) *wavering as the wind*

For Example, thousands of proverbs are about women, and most of them are unflattering, “*Women are as wavering as the wind.*” “A woman is the weaker vessel.” “A woman’s tongue wags like a lamb’s tail.”

p. 154 Mar. '93

38. (as) *withered as*

“In three years, *I became as withered as a dried fish.*”

p. 142 Mar. '9

むすび

本稿の調査では現代英語でどのような直喩表現が使われているかを Reader’s Digest を corpus として使ってまとめたものである。また、歴史的にどのような変化を辿ってきたかについては、おもに、The Oxford English Dictionary を参考にした。その他の類例については種々の辞典類を参考にした。

本稿の調査結果と3つの語学辞典 (The Kenkyusha Dictionary of English Philology / The Taishukan Encyclopaedia of English Linguistics / Seibido’s Dictionary of English Linguistics) に記載されている現代英語の常用直喩表現と比較してむすびとする。

項目	各辞典の 転移語句	(1) R.D の転移語句	(2) K の転移語句	(3) T の転移語句	(4) S の転移語句
1 (as) fair as		earth and air	a lily	a lily	
3 (as) mad as		hell/a mule...	a March hare	a March hare	a hatter/a March hare
4 (as) light as		a gentle breeze/a cat	a feather	a feather	air
9 (as) plain as		vanilla ice cream	pike-staff		a pike staff
11 (as) proud as		the greatest American industrialists	a peacock/Lucifer		a peacock/Lucifer
12 (as) quiet as		a church	pussy		a mouse
15 (as) silent as		a stone	a stock		the grave
17 (as) slow as		an hour hand	a snail		
18 (as) swift as		a bullet	a snail		
19 (as) sweet as		a Super Bowl victory		summer	honey
21 (as) tight as		a drum			a drum
25 (as) warm as		a cup of tea			(a) toast

notes (1) Readers' Digest

(2) The Kenkyusha Dictionary of English Philology P.P. 930-931

(3) The Taishukan Encyclopaedia of English Linguistics P. 832

(4) Seibido's Dictionary of English Linguistics P. 833

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Seibido's Dictionary of English Linguistics

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Sanseido's New Dictionary of English Grammar

The Oxford English Dictionary

The Concise Oxford Dictionary

Longman Contemporary Dictionary

The Random House Dictionary of the English Language

The Shorter English Language

Dictionary Collins Cobuild English Language Dictionary

Brewer's Dictionary of Phrase and Fable

The Oxford Dictionary of Quotations

Kenkyusha's New English Japanese-English Dictionary

Random House English-Japanese Dictionary

Kenkyusha New Dictionary of English Collocations

NTC'S Dictionary of Proverbs and Cliches

NTC'S English Idioms Dictionary

NTC's Dictionary of Words Origins
Fowler's Modern English Usage
Collins Concise Dictionary
The Shorter Oxford English Dictionary
The Oxford Dictionary of Quotations
The Dictionary of Quotations
The Advanced Learner's Dictionary of Current English
Everyday American English Dictionary
The Bible
Good News Bible
The Merriam-Webster Pocket Dictionary of Synonyms
Kenkyusha's New Collegiate Dictionary of the English Language
Taishukan's Genius English Japanese Dictionary
Usage and Abusage